

Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS)

In November 2017 Norfolk CCG's , led by North Norfolk CCG, commissioned a pilot scheme for six months with **Primary Eyecare Norfolk & Waveney Ltd.**(PENW). PENW is a company managed by and for the optical practices and optometrists in the area to negotiate Community Contracts.

The MECS scheme is currently limited to practices which would normally refer patients to Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital (NNUH). If the pilot proves successful it is hoped the scheme can be expanded to cover the whole Norfolk & Waveney area.

Under the scheme accredited optometrists are able to assess patients presenting with the following:

- Red eye(s) or eyelids
- Dry or gritty uncomfortable eyes
- Irritation and inflammation of the eye
- Recent, significant, sticky discharge from the eye(s)
- Recently occurring flashes or floaters
- Ingrowing eyelashes
- Recent and sudden loss of vision (partial or total) to one or both eyes
- Foreign body in the eye

A Formulary has been agreed for optometrists to treat certain diseases by using a written order sent to a local pharmacist. Direct referral to the NNUH eye clinic is available for emergency cases; appointments can be arranged with NNUH eye clinics for routine cases and GP appointments for conditions related to general health. The GP will be kept informed.